

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03379 291538Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FBO-02 SCCT-01 AID-05

CCO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05

OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 EURE-00 /101 W

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R 291505Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8996

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONGEN ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 3379

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: STUDENT VIOLENCE

REF: A) ANKARA 3283 B) ISTANBUL 1210

BEGIN SUMMARY: LATEST STUDENT VIOLENCE HAS LED TO NEW GOVERNMENT CONCERN AND POSSIBLY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN CONTROLLING CAMPUS DISTURBANCES. RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT HAS CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VIOLENCE AND ACCUSED THE SECURITY FORCES OF PARTISANSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN ISTANBUL APRIL 24 AND IN ANKARA APRIL 25, THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CLASHES BETWEEN LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST STUDENTS, HAVE PRECIPITATED DEMANDS FOR MORE FORCEFUL GOVERNMENT ACTION. THESE DEMANDS APPEAR TO BE MAKING THE STUDENT PROBLEM AN ISSUE OF PARTISAN POLITICS.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03379 291538Z

2. RESPONDING TO THE RECENT RASH OF INCIDENTS, THE NATIONAL

SECURITY COUNCIL MET ON APRIL 26 AND ISSUED A DECLARATION WHICH ECHOED THE REPORT OF THE 13 UNIVERSITY RECTORS (REF A). THE NSC DECLARED THAT THE RECENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES "WERE NOT CREATED SOLELY BY EDUCATIONAL OR SCHOOLING PROBLEMS, BUT ARE PART OF THE ACTIVITIES...AIMED AT DESTROYING THE BASIC ORDER OF THE STATE." THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE NSC STATEMENT APRIL 28 AND ACCEPTED THE NSC RECOMMENDATION FOR A ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW IN ANKARA, ISTANBUL, ADANA AND ICEL PROVINCES. THE COUNCIL STATED THAT "NO MATTER FROM WHERE OR FROM WHOM ILLEGAL ACTION MAY COME, IT WILL FIND THE STATE FORCES AGAINST IT.... ILLEGAL ACTIONS, ACTS OF VIOLENCE, BOYCOTTS AND OCCUPATIONS MADE FOR IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVES, VARIOUS ANARCHIST ACTIONS OF CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATIONS HARMED IN THE PAST ONLY THOSE WHO PERPETRATED THESE ACTIONS, THEIR PROTECTORS AND PROVOKERS AND THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF TURKISH DEMOCRACY."

3. SEPARATELY, PRIMIN DEMIREL ANNOUNCED HE WOULD MEET WITH UNIVERSITY RECTORS ON MAY 1 TO DISCUSS MEASURES FOR ENSURING EDUCATIONAL SECURITY.

4. THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) HAS CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENTS AND SAID THAT SECURITY FORCES WERE METING OUT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT. THESE STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT THE RPP APPARENTLY SEES THE STUDENT PROBLEM AS A PARTISAN ISSUE. AMONG THE CHARGES MADE BY RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT IN RECENT DAYS WERE:

A. ON APRIL 26, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS INSTIGATING THE RECENT RIOTS AND NOTED A RECENT STATEMENT BY "A GOVERNMENT LEADER" THAT DEP PRI MIN TURKES' STUDENT COMMANDOES WERE ASSISTING THE STATE SECURITY FORCES SHOWED THAT "THOSE WHO ARE TURLY RESPONSIBLE (FOR THESE EVENTS) ARE IN THE GOVERNMENT TODAY."

B. ON APRIL 27 HE CRITICIZED THE CLOSING DOWN OF A BRECHT PLAY BY THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES, SAYING THIS ACTION INDICATED "THE GOVERNMENT TENDS TO CURTAIL FREEDOMS." MARTIAL LAW WAS PROCLAIMED SOLELY FOR CYPRUS-RELATED PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

C. ON APRIL 28 ECEVIT AGAIN ATTACKED THE COMMANDOES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 03379 291538Z

CRITICIZED THE NSC DECLARATION STATING THAT "A HANDFUL OF ARMED THUGS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRY.... IN THE NSC STATEMENT I SAW NO CRITICISM OF THE ARMED BULLIES. THE PRE-1971 GAMES ARE BEING STAGED ONCE AGAIN NOW. JUST AS WE FOILED THAT GAME, WE WILL DO SO AGAIN. THIS RULING POWER ... WILL SET BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER. THE DAYS AHEAD MAY BE FULL OF HARDSHIPS, BUT TOMORROW IS OUR PEOPLE'S."

5. PRIMIN DEMIREL TOLD THE PRESS APRIL 25 THAT NO ONE COULD PREVENT STUDENTS WHO DESIRED TO STUDY FROM STUDYING, AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE BOYCOTTS BEGUN BY LEFTIST STUDENTS AT MANY SCHOOLS AFTER THE APRIL 24 STUDENT DISTURBANCE AT ISTANBUL (REF B). FOLLOWING THE APRIL 26 NSC MEETING, DEMIREL WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS TO HAVE SAID "THE DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE HAVE CEASED TO BE A PARTY STRUGGLE; THEY HAVE TURNED INTO A RIGHT-LEFT CLASH" FROM WHICH THE NATIONALISTS WOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS. DEMIREL DENIED THAT GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES WERE ACTING IN A DISCRIMINATORY MANNER. (LENDING CREDENCE TO THIS DENIAL WAS THE DISPERSAL BY RIOT POLICE OF A GROUP OF RIGHTIST COMMANDOES WHO WERE PLANNING TO STAGE AN ATTACK AT HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY IN ANKARA APRIL 28. THE POLICE ARRESTED AFEW STUDENTS AND SEIZED DYNAMITE, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND OTHER WEAPONS.)

6. COMMENT: DEMIREL'S STATEMENTS COULD PRESAGE A POLICY OF MORE AGGRESSIVE ACTION, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE FORCIBLE PREVENTION OF STUDENT BOYCOTT OR OCCUPATION ATTEMPTS TO CLOSE THE SCHOOLS. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR COPING WITH THE STUDENTS, DEMIREL MUST BE CAREFUL TO CONTAIN RIGHTIST AS WELL AS LEFTIST EXTREMISM. ON THE OTHER HAND, ECEVIT APPARENTLY HOPES TO SADDLE THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE COMMANDOES AND TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON WHAT HE ALLEGES IS GOVERNMENT PARTISANSHIP AND DENIAL OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. ECEVIT OPPOSES THE VIOLENCE APPARENTLY FAVORED BY THE EXTREMISTS AND HAS WORKED TO KEEP THE RPP FROM BECOMING ASSOCIATED WITH STUDENT VIOLENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, UNIVERSITIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA03379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0464
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975045/aaaaaehg.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 3283, 75 ISTANBUL 1210
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006